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## **A revision of the type specimens of the Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus* (Caprimulgidae)**

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The Spotted Nightjar is one of two Australian *Eurostopodus* nightjars and is the most widespread, occurring over much of the continent west of the Great Dividing Range (Cleere 1998, 1999, Higgins 1999, Holyoak 2001). Anomalies within the nomenclature of this nightjar were corrected by Hartert (1892) and later by Schodde & Mason (1981), who determined that the specific name should be *argus* rather than *guttatus*, with the latter becoming a synonym of the White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis*, the other Australian *Eurostopodus* species.

Hartert (1892) described *Eurostopodus argus* and listed sixteen specimens deposited in The Natural History Museum, Tring, which therefore became the type material of the species. The specimens were not identified with their museum registration numbers, but were allocated a letter of the alphabet, followed by their collection locality and origin. Mathews (1918) selected specimen e as the type of *Eurostopodus argus*, an adult collected by Captain Sturt in South Australia, which he further designated as being from New South Wales, but incorrectly so (Schodde & Mason 1997). Warren (1966) listed BMNH 1888.10.3.16 as a syntype (which is either specimen h or i in Hartert's List) and stated that several other syntypes were in the collection. Schodde & Mason (1997) quoted specimen e, BMNH no. unspecified, as the lectotype and then stated that BMNH 1888.10.3.16 and all other BMNH specimens listed by Hartert (1892) were paralectotypes.

A new examination of the *Eurostopodus argus* material deposited in The Natural History Museum, Tring, reveals that Hartert (1892) clearly made some errors in documenting all of the specimens before him and that not all specimens listed in his

work can be considered types, as stated by subsequent authors. Firstly, Hartert listed only one specimen collected by J.T. Cockerell in Queensland that was originally in the Tweeddale collection (specimen f), although there are actually two. He also listed two specimens from Derby, N.W. Australia, a male (specimen m) and a female (specimen n), collected and presented by Captain Bowyer Bower, but there are three, one male and two females. In both examples, it is impossible to know exactly which specimens were omitted, but the museum registers confirm that they were all present at the time and must, therefore, be considered types. Secondly, Hartert clearly described only the adult plumage, so an immature (specimen g) from N.E. Australia purchased by the museum and a pullus (specimen r) collected by Rev. G. Brown in Topaca, New Ireland cannot be regarded as types. As a result of our investigations, we can now put on record a complete list of the type specimens of the Spotted Nightjar:

Lectotype : BMNH 1846.5.22.91, adult, S. Australia, collected and presented by Captain E. Sturt. For lectotypification, see Mathews 1918, p. 233.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1845.11.7.36, adult, Australia, purchased from Sir G. Grey.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1869.11.16.12, adult, Australia, presented by E. Rishton.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1888.10.3.11, adult male, Australia, ex Tweeddale collection.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1888.10.3.14, adult female, Australia, ex Tweeddale collection.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1881.11.7.921, adult, Queensland, Australia, collected by J.T. Cockerell, ex Tweeddale collection.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1881.11.7.922, adult, Queensland, Australia, collected by J.T. Cockerell, ex Tweeddale collection.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1888.10.3.16, adult, Port Albany (= Somerset, Cape York, Australia), collected by C. Coxen, ex Tweeddale collection.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1888.10.3.53, adult, Port Albany (= Somerset, Cape York, Australia), collected by C. Coxen, ex Tweeddale collection.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1845.7.14.17, adult, Red Wallis' Islands, purchased from the Earl of Derby.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1842.1.13.12, adult, N.W. Australia, presented by Captain Chambers.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1887.5.2.48, adult female, Yabber Goody, near Derby, N. W. Australia, 26 June 1886, collected and presented by Captain Bowyer Bower.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1887.5.2.49, adult female, Mt. Anderson, south of Derby, N.W. Australia, 10 October 1886, collected and presented by Captain Bowyer Bower.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1887.5.2.50, adult male, Fitzroy R. Camp, Mt. Anderson, south of Derby, N.W. Australia, 5 November 1886, collected and presented by Captain Bowyer Bower.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1857.9.18.11, adult male, near the Norman River (17°40'S, 141°E), N.W. Queensland, Australia, 16 April 1856, collected and presented by J. Elsey.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1857.10.28.75, adult male, Victoria River Depot (15°34'S, 130°22'E), N.W. Australia, April 1856, collected and presented by J. Elsey.

Paralectotype : BMNH 1859.1.10.17, adult male, Shark Bay, Perons Peninsula, W. Australia, May 1858, collected by Dr. F.M. Rayner, surgeon on the H.M.S. Herald, and presented by the Admiralty.

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